

2011-J134

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the New York Cadet Wing Color Guard of the Civil Air Patrol upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate, January 11, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the New York Cadet Wing Color Guard of the Civil Air Patrol upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate, to be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol enjoys a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community that spans decades; the organization was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 476 incorporating the Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization; on May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing the Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Three primary mission areas were set forth at the inception of the Civil Air Patrol: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Civil Air Patrol handles 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions, with approximately 75 lives saved each year; its members are generally the first on the scene transmitting satellite digital images of the damage within seconds around the world and provid-

ing disaster relief and emergency services following natural and manmade disasters, including such phenomena as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Texas and Oklahoma wildfires, tornadoes in the south and central United States, North Dakota flash flooding and the October 2006 earthquake in Hawaii, as well as humanitarian missions along the United States and Mexican border; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Civil Air Patrol members are dedicated to counterdrug reconnaissance and to teaching a new generation about aerospace and its impact on our future; its cadet programs ensure our youth receive the finest leadership training the Nation has to offer; and

WHEREAS, Hailing from Saratoga County, the New York Cadet Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, and its members: Blake B. Hotopp of Ballston Lake, New York; Jessi M. Rapelje of Ballston Spa, New York; David F. Rakvica of Charlton, New York; Scott P. Downs of Malta, New York; Ryan M. Triller of Clifton Park, New York; and Karl R. Burghart of Ballston Spa, New York were privileged to present the colors on the USS Intrepid at recent ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol makes a huge impact each and every day, going above and beyond to make a profound difference in America's communities; and

WHEREAS, This occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the members of the New York Cadet Wing Color Guard of the Civil Air Patrol; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the New York Cadet Wing Color Guard of the Civil Air Patrol and its members upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Jack Ozer, New York Wing, Civil Air Patrol, and the aforementioned members of the New York Cadet Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, Saratoga County, New York.